

FOCUS

Missouri

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May 5, 2006

HEADLINE NEWS

Governor Blunt Pushes Priorities as the End of Session Nears



As the end of session nears, Governor Blunt is working to push several priorities through the legislature. One priority is the partial sale of the MOHELA assets which will fund higher education projects, the second priority is ethanol requirements for gasoline, followed by eminent domain reform. [Read more...](#)

Consortium Furthers Life Sciences in Missouri

The Governor, further supporting the biotechnology industry, has begun forming a consortium loosely named the Plant Output Trait Group. The Group, formed as part of the Governor's Advisory Council on Plant Biotechnology, is helping to attract life sciences businesses and organizations from around the nation to assist in boosting Missouri's economy.



[Read more...](#)

Eminent Domain Passes Senate



With an overwhelming majority vote, the Senate passed House Bill 1944. House Bill 1944 reforms current eminent domain language to prevent abuses to the system, and now must be returned to the House to vote on the compromise reached in the Senate. [Read more...](#)

Senate Passes MOHELA Spending Plan

Early Tuesday morning, the Missouri Senate passed their version of the MOHELA sale allocations. Under the \$472 million Senate version, \$300 million will be allocated towards capital improvement projects with the remainder going towards health care projects and initiatives. The Senate's plan is different from the House of Representatives plan, and the legislature must come to an agreement by May 5th. [Read more...](#)



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May 8, 2006

[AMBASSADORS'](#)

[DIALOGUE:](#)

["Issues facing Korea and United States"](#)

May 8, 9, 12 and 16, 2006
at various locations
around the state

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May 16, 2006

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Missouri Economy Shows April Growth



For the fourth consecutive month, Missouri's Business Condition Index showed growth. An index number higher than 50 indicates an expanding economy, with Missouri's Index currently standing at 57.2. Ernie Goss, Creighton University Economics Professor, estimates that Missouri's business services sector will see gains through the second quarter of the year. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Manufacturing Continues to Grow

For the 35th consecutive month, the national manufacturing industry continues to show growth. In Missouri, manufacturing also continues to expand and is estimated to continue adding manufacturing jobs through the April to June quarter. [Read more...](#)



Export Growth Benefits Missouri Companies



The United States Department of Commerce's Commercial Service Kansas City U.S. Export Assistance Center recognized Missouri's substantial growth in the export industry. In 2005, Missouri exports set record breaking numbers with \$10.5 billion of Missouri goods filtering into the global market. In addition, the recently negotiated Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), which includes Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, will further Missouri's export industry and opportunities. [Read more...](#)

The Legislative Countdown

With only two weeks remaining, the Missouri legislature met to further discuss the state's most pressing economic legislation. In this week's legislative update, the Department will be providing information for House Bill 1944, House Bill 1022 and Senate Bill 696. [Read more...](#)



May 28 - June 7, 2006

[Missouri Trade Mission to China 2006](#)

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June 6 - 8, 2006

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2005 Exports Data Available on MERIC Website



MERIC has updated its exports web application with 2005 data. This feature provides a summary of total export activity in the state in 2005 and detailed data on Missouri exports to countries around the world. This updated web feature is a valuable tool as international trade is an important and growing part of Missouri's economy. [Read more...](#)

Is Middle School Too Early to Think about Careers?

Middle schoolers and parents who attended the MERIC and Office of Administration's (OA) Office of Supplier & Workforce Diversity Career Exploration Fair '06 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Jefferson City on April 29 thought not. The children and their parents listened to speakers Marty Romitti, MERIC Director; Donna M. White, Director of OA's Office of Supplier & Workforce Diversity; dental assistants, teachers and electricians on the importance of career choices; played games like career walk (like cake walk but without the cake!); and took on-line career assessments.

[Read more...](#)



2006 Redevelopment Award

The Division of Business and Community Services is now taking nominations for the 2006 Redevelopment Award to be given at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development, September 25-27. The project must show a significant impact on the neighborhood or community. Applicants may include community development organizations, local governments, developers, individuals, not-for-profits, community development corporations, or others. Nominations are due no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2006. [Read more...](#)

Governor's Math and Science Summit Held to Discuss Efforts

The Governor's Math and Science Summit convened last week in Jefferson City to stress the importance of math, engineering, technology and science (METS) to students. The departments of education, higher education and economic development are working together on the METS initiative to create a data and research center to guide improvements. Assisting in facilitation of the small group sessions at the summit were Division of Workforce Development staff Carla Sarver, Mike Waltman, Catherine Jones, Kathie Smith, Jason Gatz, Anita Henry, Glenda Terrill and MTEC Executive Director Rose Marie Hopkins. [Read more...](#)



2006 Exporter of the Year Award

The Missouri Department of Economic Development is accepting applications from companies for the Exporter of the Year Award to be given at the Governor's Conference on Economic Development September 25-27 in St. Louis. Applications for this award are due by May 11. [Read more...](#)

Springfield Firm Buys The Turning Center

Springfield-based Tank Components Inc. has acquired Republic-based steel components manufacturer, The Turning Center. With soaring sales growth in the first few years of operation, Tank Components has now experienced a facility move, the doubling of its staff, a 60 percent boost in revenues and a local acquisition. [Read more...](#)

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Republic's Growth on Display at Regional Summit

The city of Republic wants to serve as an example for other towns in the Ozarks. Partnerships have been key to the city's successful growth in recent years, including the city's merger with Brookline and upcoming planned developments, Terrell Creek and Lakes at Shuyler Ridge. Republic City Administrator Dean Thompson said, "The key to the town's growth has been its willingness to think outside the city's jurisdictional boundaries."

[Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits for the Embassy Redevelopment

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved \$369,750 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits that will help launch the Embassy Redevelopment. This \$4.285 million redevelopment effort will support at least 83 new jobs and turn the property into an office complex for advertising agencies and creative consulting companies. [Read more...](#)

Annual Contractors, Union Join for Work Force Development

In order to further relations between management and labor, several electric contractors and union electricians in Kansas City have pulled together to form the National Electrical Contractors Association and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 124, otherwise known as NECA/IBEW. The NECA/IBEW will work together to develop programs for workforce development and diversity, and will be starting off with a 5-week apprenticeship program designed to interest youth in the electrical industry. In a code of commitment released by the two groups, they vow to put "a working partnership between management and labor" first. [Read more...](#)

MEMC Supplies Solar Wafers for \$1.6 Billion Agreement

MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. has entered into an agreement with Motech Industries to supply solar wafers to the company. The agreement will generate at least \$1.6 billion in revenue for MEMC. The agreement also stipulates that MEMC will receive a guarantee to purchase a 5 percent equity stake in Taiwan-based Motech. [Read more...](#)

Changes in the Air for Springfield-Branson Airport

Along with a name change from Springfield-Branson Regional Airport to Springfield-Branson National Airport, the aviation facility is undergoing many other changes. The new name reflects the change in purpose and perception at the airport, along with plans for a new \$119 million midfield terminal.

[Read more...](#)



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Certified Trade Mission to Vietnam



The World Trade Center Saint Louis in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the U.S. Commercial Service is organizing a Certified Trade Mission to Vietnam and India in August. Each participant will receive pre-qualified and pre-arranged one-on-one meetings with agents, distributors, and/or other prospective business partners in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, New Delhi, and Mumbai. In addition, all delegates will attend special networking receptions in both Vietnam and India.

The deadline for the Certified Trade Mission is next week. [Read more...](#)

Top Global Projects in 2005

Where did the biggest global projects go in 2005? Site Selection magazine tallies the results and among 115 top investment projects, Asia (including China) claimed 30 percent of the largest projects, with China claiming 14 percent on its own. In the new jobs ranking, Asia was also competitive, but Eastern Europe (including Russia) took 32 percent; Western Europe and Asia captured 20 percent each of the 164 major projects.

[Read more...](#)



Midwest Consumer Price Index Rises



Energy, transportation and apparel prices drove up the Midwest Consumer Price Index in March to 192, up from 190.7 in February and 186.3 one year ago. Energy prices increased 2.3 percent from February and transportation prices rose 2.2 percent in the same time period. Apparel prices increased 5 percent from February but decreased 3.9 percent from March 2005. The index number means that a typical market basket of goods and services

in the Midwest that cost \$100 in the 1982-84 base years cost \$192 in March.

[Read more...](#)

Atlanta Pursuing China Market

Following Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to America, Atlanta officials and state executives are looking to boost Chinese investment and assist Atlanta companies with breaking into China's economy. State and local officials hope to open a trade office in a major Chinese city, persuade China to place its sixth U.S. consulate in Atlanta, and select a sister city to create closer Sino-Atlanta ties by the end of this year. The Georgia

legislature has earmarked \$250,000 in their \$18.6 billion budget to fund the China office and Gov. Sonny Perdue is expected to sign it. [Read more...](#)



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May 12, 2006

HEADLINE NEWS

Director Steinhoff to Participate in University Symposium on Technology Transfer

May 30th - 31st, Washington University will be hosting the 21st Century Science Foundation for Innovation Symposium to discuss ways to "translate discoveries into business."

Governor Matt Blunt and Barry Marshall, recipient of the 2005 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, will be serving as keynote speakers during the event. Department of Economic Development Director Greg Steinhoff will moderate the keynote panel during the symposium with other panel discussions taking place throughout the 2-day event.



"I applaud Chancellor Wrighton for recognizing the importance of higher education's role in developing technologies that can be transferred into successful businesses," said Director Steinhoff. "Education helps spur innovation, which is the key to keep Missouri's economy competitive." [Read more...](#)

Governor Blunt Pleased with Passage of Eminent Domain



Gov. Matt Blunt commended the Missouri General Assembly for passing a tough bill to prevent abuse of eminent domain laws, one of his top legislative priorities for the year. "This legislation achieves my twin goals of protecting the rights of responsible property owners and the rights of local communities to remove damaged or neglected properties," Blunt said. "I thank the General Assembly for acting so quickly on my

recommendations to protect Missourians from abuse of eminent domain laws when no clear public interest exists." [Read more...](#)

Missouri Recognized for the State's Economy and Quality of Life

Four Missouri cities were recognized by *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine as "smart" cities in which to live. Kansas City, St. Louis, Columbia, and Jefferson City all were recognized by the magazine, which based their report on the economic strength and quality of life found throughout the cities. [Read more...](#)



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[Bio Forum & Bio Expo Japan](#)

May 28 - June 7, 2006
[Missouri Trade Mission to China 2006](#)

June 4 - 7, 2006
[2006 National Main Streets Conference](#)

Ben Stein and Bill Kurtis to Speak on Rural Missouri



On May 23-24th, Ben Stein and Bill Kurtis will serve as keynote speakers at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' conference "Capitalizing on Rural America- Missouri." The conference, held at Tan-Tar-A resort in Osage Beach, will discuss the economic future of Missouri during a variety of panel discussions. Also, the four Missouri community recipients of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' Capital Community Award will be on hand to share their successes and to interact with attendees. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Jobs on the Rise; Unemployment Rates Continue to Dip



Missouri continues to add jobs across the state and has reached 47,700 new jobs since January 2005 under Gov. Blunt's administration. The state's unemployment rate stands below the national average (of 4.7 percent) and continued on a downward path in March decreasing to 4.5 percent, its lowest since the summer of 2001. The March seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate is three-tenths of a point lower than it was in February and a full point lower than in March 2005. Missouri stands fourth nationwide in the over-the-year change of unemployment rates, maintaining the status of a job producing state. [Read more...](#)



Missouri Per Capita Personal Income Grows Faster than Nation



Missouri per capita personal income increased by 4.7% to \$31,899 in 2005 according to preliminary estimates from the U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. This was slightly faster than the U.S. increase of 4.6% that brought the national average to \$34,586. [Read more...](#)

Profiling Missouri Communities: Belton

Located in Jackson County, Belton is Missouri's 27th largest city with a population of 23,793. Local government is Jackson County's largest employer. The population of Jackson County is projected to increase by 2.6% by 2025. [Read more...](#)



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[Selling Services:](#)

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August 13 - 26, 2006

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Boys and Girls Club of Capital City receive YOP Tax Credits

The Boys and Girls Club of the Capital City will receive over \$93,000 in state tax credits for it's Education Enhancement Program. The club is expected to leverage local contributions to help implement the project, which features five major components- homework help & tutoring; high-yield learning & leisure activities; parent & adult involvement; and collaboration & incentives with schools to mobilize resources to help youth succeed in school. [Read more...](#)

3rd Annual Meramec Regional Job Fair a Success

Nearly 400 people passed through the doors, eager to visit with 36 vendors who were set up for the 3rd Annual Meramec Regional Job Fair. It was organized by the Meramec Manufacturing Council, Rolla Technical Institute and the Missouri Employers Committee. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits to Remediate the ACME Premium Supply Building

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved up to \$1,375,564 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits to help offset costs involved in the cleanup at the ACME Premium Supply Building in St. Louis. The

Month of May Designated as Workforce Development Professional Month

The Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Greg Steinhoff presented a Governor's Proclamation designating the month of May as Workforce Development Professional Month at the Columbia Career Center. This month recognizes the Missourians who have dedicated their careers to providing valuable services to job seekers and businesses throughout the state at Missouri Career Centers and the [GreatHires.org](#) Web site. [Read more...](#)



L to R: Steinhoff, Nunn, Holt, Mildward

OneKC Regional Workforce Council Forms

Seven Kansas and Missouri Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIB) have agreed to create the OneKC Regional Workforce Council. It will serve as a regional advisory body to develop strategies to coordinate workforce services beyond political jurisdictions. In addition to this, the partners will support Lifelong Learning Accounts, Regional Training Accounts, Personal Training Support Accounts and Employer Based Training.

LaBarge Expands in Joplin

Electronics firm, LaBarge, will bring at least 60 new jobs to Joplin due to an expansion that will allow the company to meet its current contract needs and allow for continued employment growth in 2007. The new facility, located at the former King Press building, will house production for several defense programs. [Read more...](#)

Cement Company Locates in City of Mexico

The Mexico City Council has approved the reconstruction of a railroad spur in order to lure CTS Cement and connect the company to the Kansas City Southern Railroad. CTS will use the former National Refractories brick manufacturing site to serve as a transportation hub for shipping cement and may later add cement bagging operations. The project will add 50 jobs paying between \$12 to \$14 an hour. [Read more...](#)

Case New Holland Consolidates Operations with New Facility in Cameron

Case New Holland (CNH) will consolidate three of its parts depots into a strategically located new facility in Cameron. The new distribution center is expected to employ between 120 - 150 employees and will supply parts and service to support Case and New Holland agricultural and

February 2006 Missouri Focus Issues

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facility will support at least 238 new jobs and turn the property into a mixed-use facility. [Read more...](#)



construction equipment. [Read more...](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

BNSF Considers Intermodal Park



Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway is looking at farmland near Gardner, Kan. for a 1,300-acre intermodal rail park. The \$200 million project would bring Asian goods through Pacific ports, which would then be transported by train to the park and eventually dispersed throughout the Midwest by truck or train.

[Read more...](#)

Biotech Developer Creates Incubator, Venture Capital Fund

Alexandria Real Estate Equities, one of the nation's largest biotechnology lab developers, is creating an incubator near the Scripps Research Institute in Jupiter, Fla. The 40,000- to 60,000-square foot lab space will be used to lure startup companies and venture capital investors. Alexandria is also starting a \$15 million venture capital fund to launch companies in its facility and invest in companies that locate there from other states.



[Read more...](#)

Paris Opens E.D. Office in San Francisco



Economic development officials from Paris, France have opened the first U.S. economic development trade office in San Francisco to generate more investments between the two cities. The Paris Region Economic Development Agency chose San Francisco because of its proximity to the Bay region's high concentration of technology and life sciences companies. [Read more...](#)

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May 19, 2006

HEADLINE NEWS

Legislative Wrap-Up from Brian Grace



Last week the gavel fell and hundreds of papers flew into the air to mark the end of the 93rd General Assembly's 2nd regular session. While we did not accomplish all that we would have hoped, we did see the implementation of several pieces of legislation designed to benefit our state's economy. In this week's legislative update, the Department will be providing information for House Bill 1944, House Bill 1270, Senate Bill 1008, House Bill

1456, Senate Bill 645, and Senate Bill 825. [Read more...](#)

Discovery Ridge Announces ABC Labs as New Tenant

During a ceremony at Discovery Ridge, ABC Labs announced its intentions of relocating its new \$15 million corporate headquarters and pharmaceutical labs to the research park. "The Department of Economic Development looks forward to a strong partnership with ABC Labs as they serve as an important tenant at this new development," DED Director Greg Steinhoff said. "ABC Labs is

expected to add up to 250 new employees at approximately a \$43,000 annual salary over 5 years, and that will boost both the local and state economy as we work to enhance our commitment to building strong high-technology firms in our state." [Read more...](#)



International Trade and Investment Office Receives Award



DED Director Greg Steinhoff accepted an award from the U.S. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dr. David Sampson on behalf of the department's International Trade and Investment (ITI) Office for helping Missouri companies increase exports. The ITI staff and the U.S. Department of Commerce, Commercial Service has worked collaboratively on programs aimed at assisting Missouri companies in the international marketplace, coordinating local trade

education events, joint client counseling and coordination of international missions and trade shows.

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June 6 - 8, 2006

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Seeking Sponsorships for Governor's Conference

There are numerous opportunities for you to be a part of this year's new and exciting Governor's Conference on Economic Development, to be held at the historic Renaissance Grand Hotel in downtown St. Louis, September 25-27, 2006. With an expectation of over 500 attendees, there are many sponsorship openings available. Please contact Annette Wallace at 573-522-9479, or email [Annette Wallace](#) for a sponsorship prospectus. Or, visit the Governor's Conference on Economic Development website at [Governor's Conference](#) for more information and a copy of the sponsorship prospectus. Sponsored by: Missouri Association of REALTORS® and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. [Read more...](#)



June 8 - 9, 2006

[Missouri Economic Development Financing Association 2006 Annual Conference](#)

June 13, 2006

[Communicating South of the Border](#)

Cross-Cultural Communications: Mexico vs. Latin America

June 19 - 23, 2006

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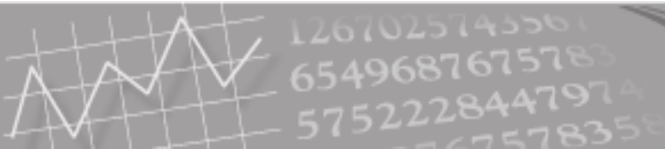
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Missouri Exports on Early Track to Set New Record



Missouri's exports through the first quarter of 2006 were up by nearly eighteen (17.55) percent compared to the same period in 2005 according to World Institute for Strategic Economic Research (WISER). Through the end of March 2006, exports by Missouri companies totaled \$2.77 billion, compared to \$2.36 billion after the first quarter of 2005. [Read more...](#)

MERIC Hosts National BLS Conference

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) will be hosting the 22nd Annual Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Labor Market Information (LMI) Conference on May 22-25, 2006 in St. Louis. [Read more...](#)



CORRECTION - Profiling Missouri Communities: Belton



Last week a profile of Belton, MO incorrectly placed the city in Jackson County. Belton is located in Cass County and the corrected information is now available. We apologize for the error. [Read more...](#)

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St. Louis Police Athletic League Receives Youth Opportunities Tax Credits

The St. Louis Police Athletic League will receive \$62,500 in state tax credits for the league's Annual Sport & Citizenship Program project. The organization is expected to leverage up to \$125,000 in local contributions to help fund the projects, which will offer recreational/sport programs for targeted youth in St. Louis. [Read more...](#)

State Tax Credits to Remediate the Former Central Shoe Building

Gov. Matt Blunt announced the approval of state remediation tax credits that will help launch a \$25 million redevelopment effort of the Central Shoe Building, which will support at least 78 new jobs and turn the property into a mixed-use facility that will house residential and office sites. [Read more...](#)

Life Skills Foundation of St. Louis Receives Youth Opportunities Tax Credits

Life Skills Foundation will receive over \$45,000 in state tax credits for the foundation's YouthWorks project. The Life Skills Foundation is expected to leverage up to \$90,000 in local contributions to help fund the projects, which will bring new academic, social, employment and daily living skills to at-risk youth. [Read more...](#)

Korean Delegation Given Overview of DED

Department of Economic Development staff met with a Korean delegation on May 9. Carla Sarver of the Missouri Division of Workforce Development (DWD) presented an overview of Missouri Government to include a review of all Departments and functions. DWD Manager Mark Bauer discussed Missouri's employment and training system, to include services that are available to businesses and job seekers. Representatives from the Division of Tourism and the Division of Business and Community Services were also on hand to present information to the delegates.

Training with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was Held

Effective Communications Training with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was held May 11-12 at the Springfield Career Center for staff throughout the region. This training is being offered to workforce system staff around the State in order to increase staff awareness of new technologies available, legal obligations and how to effectively communicate with customers using American Sign Language and many other methods. Demonstrations on the operation of technology were provided including: the TTY (text telephone) using Relay Missouri, the Cap Tel phone (captioning telephone) as well as

George's Inc. Receives Star Awards

Poultry processor George's Inc., located in Cassville, received two awards at the Seventh Annual STAR Awards Ceremony hosted by YUM Restaurants in Plano, Texas. George's was honored with the 2005 Supplier of the Year award to the Kentucky Fried Chicken brand and is the first poultry company to receive the honor. George's also received a STAR award for Value and Service Overall. [Read more...](#)

Springfield Economy Among Best in Nation

Inc. magazine has ranked Springfield No. 25 on its list of Hottest Mid-Sized Cities for entrepreneurs. The index rankings are based on job growth rates over several periods, and as of March 2006 Springfield's workforce is 217,608. Kansas City and St. Louis ranked 44 and 49, respectively, in the large cities list. [Read more...](#)

Saint-Gobain Calmar Sold to MeadWestvaco for \$745M

Grandview, Mo.-based Saint-Gobain Calmar has agreed to sell is Calmar subsidiary to Connecticut-based MeadWestvaco for a total of \$745 million. Saint-Gobain Calmar is a global manufacturer of plastic dispensing and spraying systems for cosmetics, fragrance, personal care items and pharmaceuticals. Calmar has three St. Louis area suppliers. [Read more...](#)

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Please contact [Kristin Funk](#) for more information.

GLOBAL NEWS

FedEx Will Expand Indianapolis Hub



FedEx Corp. has announced a major expansion of its hub at the Indianapolis International Airport. The project will create 800 jobs and increase capacity by 30 percent, from 75,000 packages per hour to 99,000 packages per hour. The expansion is expected to be completed by

December 2008. [Read more...](#)

UPS to Expand Rockford Hub

Atlanta-based United Parcel Service Inc. is planning to increase its sorting capacity and add 100 new jobs within the next two years, with a total of 200 new jobs in the next three years. The \$25 million project will outfit the interior of the Chicago/Rockford International Airport facility with additional sorting equipment to increase sorting capability from 82,000 packages per hour to 121,000 packages per hour. [Read more...](#)



Piston Ring Firm Locates in Bardstown, Ky.



Nippon Piston Ring Co. Ltd. has announced plans to locate a new manufacturing facility, NPR Manufacturing Kentucky LLC, in Bardstown. The \$48.7 million plant will hire 50 employees initially, with a total of 150 employees added within two years of operation. The 200,000-square-foot plant will be operational by October 2007 and was assisted with up to \$4 million in tax benefits from the Kentucky Rural Economic Development Act. [Read more...](#)

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FOCUS

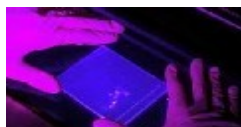
Missouri

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May 26, 2006

HEADLINE NEWS

Blunt Continues to Support Life Sciences Efforts



Since taking office in 2004, Governor Blunt has continued in his commitment to the state's economic development efforts by supporting innovative new research and technologies. While the Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative was delayed in the

legislature, Governor Blunt believes that this session laid the groundwork necessary to support upcoming efforts to boost Missouri's life sciences industry. [Read more...](#)

World Wide Technology Inc. Named Nation's Largest Black-owned Firm

According to *Black Enterprise* magazine's annual survey, World Wide Technology Inc. has been recognized as the nation's top-grossing black-owned business. World Wide Technology Inc., based in St. Louis, has an estimated 620 employees and \$1.85 billion in revenue. [Read more...](#)



Columbia Recognized by *Forbes* as one of the Best Small Places for Business



Columbia, Missouri, with a population of 152, 800, is ranked 16th in the Best Small Places for Business by *Forbes*. More notably, Columbia ranked 6th overall for educational attainment by share of population over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher. [Read more...](#)

Governor Blunt Shows Support to Small Businesses

Governor Blunt, in his State of the State address, called for legislation designed to provide cost efficient health insurance for small businesses. Answering the call was Representative Jay Wasson (R-Nixa) who created House Bill 1827, which allows small businesses to pull together to provide cost efficient health insurance to employees. House Bill 1827 received overwhelming support in the legislature and encouragement from the Department of Economic Development. The bill is currently receiving a thorough technical analysis as preparation for a signature by Governor Blunt. [Read more...](#)



COMMUNITY

WORKFORCE

BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 28 - June 7, 2006

[Missouri Trade Mission to China 2006](#)

June 1, 2 and 8, 9

Four-part Series

[Selling Services:](#)

[Exporting in the 21st Century](#)

June 4 - 7, 2006

[2006 National Main Streets Conference](#)

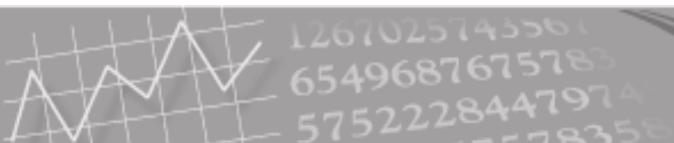
June 6 - 8, 2006

[Alimentaria Mexico 2006](#)

International Food & Beverage Exposition Mexico City

June 8 - 9, 2006

[Missouri Economic Development Financing Association 2006 Annual Conference](#)



New County per Capita Income Data Available



St. Louis County had the highest per capita income in Missouri in 2004, according to recently released data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The county's per capita income of \$45,101 was more than \$14,000 higher than the state average of \$30,475. Per capita income increased in all Missouri counties

from 2003 to 2004 with seventeen having an increase of 10 percent or higher. [Read more...](#)

Profiling Missouri's Regions: Lower South Central

Missouri's Lower South Central Region is made up of Douglas, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Shannon, Texas and Wright Counties, including West Plains, Willow Springs and Mountain Grove. The region's population is projected to grow by 16.2 percent from 2005 to 2025, compared to the 9.2 percent projected growth for the state as a whole. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Pemiscot County Initiative Network of Caruthersville Receives YOP Tax Credits

Pemiscot County Initiative (PIN) Network will receive \$75,000 in state tax credits for the network's Mentoring Youth Program. The PIN Network is expected to leverage up to \$150,000 in local contributions to help fund the program, which will provide at-risk youth with a positive employment experience and mentoring and will emphasize continuing education. [Read more...](#)

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

OneKC WIRED Kickoff Meeting

Kansas City is the last stop on the U.S. Department of Labor's "WIRED Kickoff Tour." On May 24-25, OneKC was joined by Assistant Secretary of Labor Emily DeRocco and Assistant Secretary of Commerce Sandy Baruah (Economic Development Administration). In addition, other members of the OneKC WIRED Technical Assistance Team were in KC for the kick-off meeting, including Deborah Wince Smith, President of the Council on Competitiveness; Richard Seline, president and CEO of New Economy Strategies; and Pamela Tate, President and CEO of the Council

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Missouri Development Finance Board Report

The Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB) has posted its April - May project activity on its Web site. Projects during this time include lower bond issuance fees, Neosho Airport Terminal, City of Independence, Ozarks Regional YMCA, City of Van Buren, City of King City and Kraft Foods Global, Inc. To read more about these projects, visit the [MDFB](#) Web site.

June 13, 2006

[Communicating South of the Border](#)

Cross-Cultural Communications: Mexico vs. Latin America

June 15, 2006

[Export Controls & Compliance](#)

June 19 - 23, 2006

[NPE 2006: National Plastics Exposition International Showcase](#)

June 25 - 28, 2006

[2006 CDS Annual International Conference](#)

"Communities that Click: Individuals, Families, and Organizations Working Together"

June 27, 2006

[Cross-Cultural Communications in China](#)

June 27 - 30, 2006

[Expo Pack 2006](#)
Mexico City, Centro Banamex

July 12 - 14, 2006

[International Modern Hospital Show](#)
Tokyo, Japan

July 12 - 14, 2006

[PAACE Automechanika](#)
Mexico City, Centro Banamex

PAST ISSUES

[March 2006 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[February 2006 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

North American Amateur Sports Association of Sedalia Receives Tax Credits

North American Amateur Sports Association will receive \$200,000 in state tax credits for the association's Queen City Diamonds Youth Baseball & Softball Complex project. The association is expected to leverage up to \$400,000 in local contributions to help fund the project, which will construct a 4-field youth baseball and softball complex for Pettis County youth between the ages of 8 and 21. [Read more...](#)

Community Resource Fair

Cornerstone of Care is hosting a Community Resource Fair June 7, 2006. The Community Resource Fair is meant to be an informative event for the Missouri Children Division's employees, Foster Care Case Management contractors, school districts personnel, Family Court, and mental health technicians throughout the metropolitan area on the vast resources and services available to them and their clients. [Read more...](#)

for Adult and Experiential Learning. The State of Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Workforce Development serves as the Grant Recipient for this \$15 million USDOL grant award. The State of Missouri and the State of Kansas jointly applied for this competitive award to support bi-state economic and workforce development initiatives in the 18 county regions.

Veterans Appreciation Day

Each spring the Disabled American Veterans Organization sponsors a Veterans Appreciation Day in Kirksville that draws veterans and dependants from the Northeast Missouri region. This well-attended 15th annual event, held last month, was an opportunity for Veterans Service Organizations and other interested providers to interact with veterans on a personal level. Present for this year's activities were 26 groups, local politicians and state political leaders including State Representative Bob Behnen and family, pictured here with Ron Hockman, the Local Veterans Employment Representative from the Kirksville Missouri Career Center.



K.C. Port Authority Receives Funds for Richards-Gebaur Site

The Kansas City Port Authority has been awarded two grants totaling \$400,000 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up the former Richards-Gebaur Memorial Airport site. As soon as the sale of the site to the Port Authority is approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, the Port Authority plans to sell the property to CenterPoint Properties Trust for developing a 1,400-acre industrial park. [Read more...](#)

Springfield-Branson National Airport Records Record Growth

According to the Airports Council International, the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF) is ranked 4th in 2005 passenger growth among all commercial airports. The 23.1 percent growth follows a 10 percent growth in 2004. The airport is showing an 11 percent growth rate year-to-date for 2006. Cargo shipments at SGF also increased with a nearly 40 percent growth rate in 2005, which places the airport 4th in the nation for cargo tonnage. [Read more...](#)

DED PRESS RELEASES

QUICK LINKS

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[GreatHires.org](#)

[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

Wetlands Near Kennett, Dexter to Benefit from Federal Grant

Thirty-five acres of a dwindling wetland habitat will be restored in Southeast Missouri thanks to a recently awarded USDA grant. The USDA Natural Resource and Conservation Service recently released \$238,000 in funding to restore or enhance wetlands on 1,700 acres in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

Joplin Regional Airport Gets K.C. Flights

The Joplin Regional Airport has announced that Mesa Air Group will serve the airport with 18 nonstop flights a week to Kansas City International Airport, beginning service in the next 60-90 days. Mesa was selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation and will receive an annual subsidy of \$849,757. [Read more...](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)



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GLOBAL NEWS

Supreme Court Rejects Cuno Case



The Supreme Court made a unanimous decision last week to reject the Cuno vs. DaimlerChrysler case, barring taxpayers from Ohio and Michigan from challenging the constitutionality of the Ohio tax credits. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the plaintiffs failed to demonstrate they'd been harmed, and they contradicted each other when it came to claims that the corporate tax breaks rob the state's treasury and shift the tax burden to individuals.

[Read more...](#)

Honda Plans Georgia Expansion and New Auto Plant

Japanese automaker, Honda Motor Co., is planning to expand its operations in Georgia with a \$50 million project, adding 40 jobs and bringing total employment at the Georgia facility to 440. The company will expand its U. S. engine, transmission and powertrain component production and is also looking to build a new auto plant in the Midwest. Honda's sixth North American plant will begin production in 2008 and will increase production from 1.4 million to 1.6 million units in North America. [Read more...](#)



Shipping Company Could Receive \$3.6M for Expansion



Maersk Inc. could receive as much as \$3.6 million in North Carolina Job Development Investment Grants funding to assist with its \$60 million, 254-job expansion and relocation of its Charlotte operations. The company plans to buy the Royal Sun Alliance building in southern Charlotte, which consists of 40 acres of land and 345,000 square feet of office space. The

254 initial new jobs are expected to pay an average salary of \$49,000 annually.

[Read more...](#)

U.S., Vietnam Reach Trade Agreement

The United States and Vietnam have reached a bilateral market access agreement that will provide trade benefits for the U.S. and allow Vietnam to complete its entry to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The agreement will lower trade barriers on U.S. products and remove non-tariff obstacles faced by U.S. service firms, and will aid in the reform of political and economic issues in Vietnam. [Read more...](#)



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